



Olympia Address:

115 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40407
Olympia, WA 98504-0407
Phone: (360) 786-7612
FAX: (360) 786-1999
E-mail: Bob.Morton@leg.wa.gov

Washington State Senate

Senator Bob Morton
7th Legislative District

District Office:

3278 Pierre Lake Road
Kettle Falls, WA 99141
Phone: (509) 684-5132

July 25, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT 11-65: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am the State Senator serving the 7th District in Northeast Washington. It is an area of the state that has been hard hit by the current economic recession. Many communities in Northeast Washington are plagued by inferior, unreliable wireless service. I mention this because access to enhanced, high-speed broadband is a vital tool for business growth, and lack of access can slow economic growth and keep people and small businesses from the resources that can help them succeed in the quickly changing global marketplace.

The proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger, referenced above, would change this for our area and for similarly affected rural areas across the country. The result of this merger will expand and enhance the existing network infrastructure, which will make high-speed access available to virtually every corner of the country. The impact of this merger would be immense and positive, especially when it comes to economic development.

Businesses can use reliable, cutting-edge communications technologies to grow by expanding their online presence and offering Internet sales and customer support to markets around the globe. This technology will give them access to educational resources that can help them manage, hire, invest, and expand efficiently and effectively. And if all businesses and people in our area have access to high-speed broadband, we can improve our outreach efforts and more effectively serve our business community by offering more online resources and networking opportunities.

It's thrilling to imagine the vast impact that increased access to this technology would have on our local economy and on economies and businesses across the country. The possibilities truly are endless, and the outcome of this merger could be the key to our nation's economic recovery. I hope you will keep this in mind while making your decision, and thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Cordially yours,

Bob Morton

BOB MORTON
Washington State Senator

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell